

REMARKS

This response is offered in reply to the Office Action of February 27, 2003.

Applicant has amended page 3 of the specification in a manner to overcome the objections thereto set forth at the top of page 2 of the office action. Reconsideration is requested.

Applicant also has amended pages 5 and 7 to update the status of the pending applications referred to there. Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicant has amended claim 19 to overcome the Section 112, second paragraph rejection set forth on page 2 of the office action. Reconsideration of the Section 112 rejection of claim 19 is requested.

Applicant appreciates the indicated allowability of claims 2-6, 8-12, and 16-18. Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, and 15 to include the recitation of claims 2, 8, and 16 with respect to inclusion of at least about 15 weight % hafnia in at least the portion of the thermal barrier coating that comprises the stabilized zirconia coating.

Applicant also has amended certain claims to recite that it is at least the portion of the thermal barrier coating comprising the stabilized zirconia that includes the hafnia in an amount of at least about 15 weight % and reduced thermal conductivity. For example, the claimed thermal barrier coating can include only a layer portion that comprises the stabilized zirconia coating including the hafnia in an amount of at least about 15 weight % as described on page 3, second paragraph and page 6, last paragraph through page 7, lines 1-3 of the specification. Alternately, the entire claimed thermal barrier coating can comprise the stabilized zirconia coating including the hafnia in an amount of at least about 15 weight % (see page 3, second paragraph and page 6, last paragraph through page 7, lines 1-3 of the specification). The amendments are believed to place the claims in better form under 35 USC 112.

USSN 10/024 518

The amended claims 1-19 are believed to overcome the Section 102 and Section 103 rejections of claims 1, 7, and 13-15 set forth on pages 3-5 of the office action as noted by the examiner on page 5 of the office action.

Applicant has added new claims 20-27, which are believed allowable also. The Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee for new claims 20-27 to my deposit account No. 20-1124.

Applicant requests allowance of pending claims 1-27.

Applicant encloses a Supplemental IDS listing documents which were cited by the British Patent Office with respect to a corresponding British application based on Applicant's above identified US application.

Respectfully submitted,



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enclosure: IDS, Form 1449, document copies and Postal card

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450, Arlington, VA 22313-1450, on May 27, 2003.



Edward J. Timmer